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IN THE CLAIMS

1.-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently amended) A dermatological and/or cosmetic composition providing improved stability of its chemical constituents, the composition comprising an aqueous phase, a lipid phase, and an at least one active ingredient component that imparts the improved stability to the composition, wherein said the at least one active ingredient component consists of:

(a) one or more partially neutralized esters of monoglycerides and/or diglycerides of saturated fatty acids with citric acid; and

(b) α -lipoic acid.

11. (Previously presented) The dermatological and/or cosmetic composition of claim 10, wherein the ratio of (b)/(a) is between 1/500 to 1/1

12. (Previously presented) The dermatological and/or cosmetic composition of claim 10, wherein the ratio of (b)/(a) is between 1/200 to 1/1.

13. (Previously presented) The dermatological and/or cosmetic composition of claim 10, wherein the ratio of (b)/(a) is between 1/30 to 1/1.

14. (Previously presented) The combination as claimed in claim 10, wherein the partially neutralized ester of monoglycerides and/or diglycerides of saturated fatty acids with citric acid chosen is glyceryl stearate citrate.

15. (Previously presented) A cosmetic or dermatological oil-in-water emulsion preparation comprising a combination as claimed in claim 10.

16. (Previously presented) The cosmetic or dermatological oil-in-water emulsion preparation as claimed in claim 15, wherein the partially neutralized ester(s) of monoglycerides and/or diglycerides

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of saturated fatty acids with citric acid is present in the preparation in a concentration of 0.1 - 20% by weight based on the total weight of the preparation.

17. (Previously presented) The cosmetic or dermatological oil-in-water emulsion preparation as claimed in claim 16, wherein the partially neutralized ester(s) of monoglycerides and/or diglycerides of saturated fatty acids with citric acid is present in the preparation in a concentration of 0.5 - 10% by weight based on the total weight of the preparation.

18. (Previously presented) The cosmetic or dermatological oil-in-water emulsion preparation as claimed in claim 17, wherein the partially neutralized ester(s) of monoglycerides and/or diglycerides of saturated fatty acids with citric acid is present in the preparation in a concentration of 1.0 - 5.0% by weight based on the total weight of the preparation.

19. (Previously presented) A method of caring for skin comprising topically applying to said skin an effective amount therefor of a composition according to claim 10.

20. (Previously presented) A method of caring for skin comprising topically applying to said skin an effective amount therefor of a cosmetic or dermatological oil-in-water emulsion preparation according to claim 15.